

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to tell you what I think about your decision to repeal the ban on ownership of TV stations and newspapers in the same geographical area. I think that this ban should remain in place. This ban should exist because it creates a need for more media companies. That, in turn, creates a larger group of people who are able to decide what will be shown or discussed in the news. I am not a blind consumer of media, and I do realize that what is reported in newspapers and on TV are not the only newsworthy events happening in the world. I personally get my news from a wide variety of sources. However, I am able to do that because I am in a rather small segment of our society: the college-educated upper middle class. I am lucky enough to have been educated to realize that I must seek our alternative sources to traditional news sources, and I have the money necessary to have a computer and an internet connection that allows me to get news from many sources. But many people a!

re not as fortunate as I am, and must depend on their local paper and TV stations to give them fair and accurate depictions of the news. By allowing one company to own and operate several TV stations and several newspapers in one town, we will effectively be allowing one or two people to control all of the news that reaches a region. I am sure you are aware of the "gatekeeping" that happens in newspapers and TV news: the editors of a paper or producers of a program decide what is newsworthy and what is not. If one company is allowed to act as a gatekeeper for the major news media outlets in one area, what kind of news will not be reported? This would be very similar to propaganda, but instead of a government telling people what to think about and how to think about it, we will be allowing a corporation to do that. To allow one company to own several TV stations and newspapers in one area would effectively silence any people outside of corporate America, and that is not the p!

urpose of the FCC, a group created to serve the interests of all Americans, not just the ones who work with multinational corporations. I urge you to keep this ban.